

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 73
(Cavalry Stable)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-Q

HABS
IDWA,
77-DESMO,
24-Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO,
24-Q-

HABS No. IA-121-Q

Building No. 73. Stable

Like most of the other stable buildings, Building No. 73 was based on plan 139 in the office of the Quartermaster General. Work on the structure was finished on February 24, 1905, and it cost \$18,799.18 to erect. Fronting on Thayer Street its red brick walls rose from a foundation of limestone and concrete, and it had a slate roof. Brick was set in running bond with red-pigmented mortar. Exterior dimensions measured 67 feet wide by 165 feet long. The gabled roof possessed a louvered monitor running the length of the ridge. Each of the side walls contained sixteen double hung windows, while double sliding doors were at the front and rear ends. Each end also contained five double hung windows. All windows had 3-course segmental arches and limestone lug sills. Entrances had segmental arches.

The building could hold ninety cavalry horses and contained 10,556 square feet, divided as follows:

First floor:

Stable room, 64' 10" x 162' 10" (including 4 rooms, 9' 8" x 10' 7";
1 room, 19' 6" x 32')

Loft:

Room, 41' 4" x 44' 6" (including 1 room, 9' 8" x 19' 6")

Floors were of wood, brick, cement, and clay. The structure had electric lighting and hot air heating. Unspecified repairs accomplished between the date of completion and 1922 averaged \$26.56 per year. In June, 1932, Building No. 73 was converted into a gun shed at an expenditure of \$4,742.51. Almost five years later an overhead door was installed in the north end of the building, along with a carrier heat unit. As in the case of the other stables, in 1935 a frame walkway was raised

connecting this building to adjoining Building No. 71. This was replaced in 1942 by one of brick with an asphalt shingle roof and windows and doors. Also in 1942 a rear addition measuring 66 feet 6 inches wide by 53 feet long was erected on Building No. 73. This was of brick laid in common bond. The addition had an asphalt shingle roof. A garage door has since been installed on the south side of the 1942 addition, and another has replaced a window on the east side. In 1987 the vacant building was in poor to fair condition.(31)

31. Card for Building No. 73. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987. QMG Plan No. 139 was not located in NA, Cartographic Archives Division.